AN

ANSWER

To the pretended

REASONS againſt a *Pound Rate*, in the intended new Pariſh of *Poplar*.

215

23.

AN ANSWER

To the pretended

REASONS againſt a *Pound Rate*, in the intended new Pariſh of *Poplar*.

K

THE Objectors ſay, " *There are about ſix hundred Houſes in* Poplar, *worth, one* " *with the other*, 3 l. per Annum, *and four Ship-yards, valued at upwards of* 600 l. " per Annum, *and ſome Wharfs. Two Thirds of the Houſes are uninhabited, or* " *do not pay to the Poor.*

" *It is intended by the printed Bill, to raiſe yearly the Sum of* 50 l. *by an equal* " *Pound Rate for the Miniſter, upon the Inhabitants of Houſes*, &c. *which cannot come to leſs* " *than twelve Pence in the Pound, allowing for Deficiencies ; but ſhould the Collector imbezzle* " *the Money, or the Ship-yards fail, it may increaſe to two Shillings in the Pound or more ; a* " *Sum inſupportable, and not any ways to be paid by the middling Inhabitants paying to the Poors* " *Rate.*

Had theſe Objectors deſigned a true Repreſentation of the Caſe of *Poplar*, they would have ſet forth fairly what the Rents amount to, which are rated to the Poor. This they were well enabled to have done, becauſe no longer ago than the 28*th* of laſt Month, there was a general Meeting of the Inhabitants at the Town Houſe for that Purpoſe, when it appear'd, on an impartial Survey of the preſent State of the Hamlet, taken in the Preſence of ſome of their Adherents, that there are about two hundred and eighteen Houſes rated to the Poor, and that the yearly Rents of thoſe Houſes amount to the Sum of 1599 *l.* excluſive of the four Ship-yards ; the Rents of which, the Objectors admit to be upwards of 600 *l. per Annum.* So that to raiſe the yearly Sum of 50 *l.* inſtead of 12 *d.* (as is falſely ſuggeſted) a Rate of ſix Pence in the Pound will ſuffice : But if (as was lately propoſed to obviate Clamours) the Proviſion for the Miniſter ſhould be reduced to 40 *l. per. Annum*, it cannot exceed five Pence in the Pound, allowing largely for Deficiencies. And it is humbly hoped this will not be deem'd *a Sum* INSUPPORTABLE, *and not to be raiſed by the middling Inhabitants* ; becauſe by a Calculation made by the Objectors, *the Rents of the major Part of their Houſes are between two and ſeven Pounds* per. Ann. and conſequently the Occupiers of the higheſt of thoſe Rents will not be obliged to pay towards the Maintenance of the Miniſter above 2 *s.* 11 *d. per Ann.* which is ſurely not a Sum INSUPPORTABLE ; eſpecially when 'tis conſider'd that many of them in Rents under 7 *l.* a Year, pay at preſent (beſides their *Eaſter* Offerings and Garden Pennies) barely for their Seats in the Chapel, from 4 *s.* to 12 *s. per Ann.* For it is to be noted, the Miniſter of *Poplar* receives yearly for the Pews, from the Inhabitants of that Diſtrict only, upwards of 50 *l.* and the ſmall Tythes, *Eaſter* Offerings and Gardens are put by the Objectors themſelves at 18 *l.* in Lieu of both which Sums they are to pay for the Future no more than 40 *l.*

It is therefore apparent (beyond all Contradiction) that the middling Inhabitants for whom theſe Objectors ſeem to be moſt concern'd, will reap great Advantages, ſhould this Bill be paſs'd into a Law.

And 'tis as plain that ſo will all the Inhabitants of a lower Rank ; but indeed for theſe, who have a Claim to Compaſſion, they ſhew no manner of Regard : On the contrary, they argue for a Continuance of *Eaſter* Offerings, *&c.* which for many Years have very juſtly been complain'd of as a heavy Burthen upon the poorer ſort of People, none being exempted from that Church-rate but ſuch as receive Alms. And they know, or may know, that at leaſt 250 poor Houſe-keepers in *Poplar*, are at this time liable to be oppreſs'd thereby, nine tenths of whom are Sea-faring Men, or their Families.

The Caſe is much the ſame in the reſt of the intended new Pariſhes, particularly in *Lime-houſe* and *Wapping Stepney*, which are populous Hamlets, and abound with great Numbers of poor Inhabitants who uſe the Seas.

So that theſe People are labouring to ſet aſide a Bill, which (beſides that it tends to the Honour of the Nation, by eſtabliſhing Places greatly wanted for the publick Worſhip of God) is manifeſtly calculated for the Eaſe and Relief of ſome thouſands of diſtreſſed Families in the Pariſh of *Stepney*, conſiſting chiefly of SEAMEN, or SEAMEN'S WIDOWS and Children.